BCPharmaCare Newsletter *June 12, 2008 Edition 08-006*

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UPDATED
LOW COST ALTERNATIVE / REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM (LCA/RDP) BOOKLET

Effective July 28, 2008

The new **Low Cost Alternative/Reference Drug Program** booklet, effective July 28, 2008, is now available on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/publications.html.

The booklet includes all changes to drug information announced in, or before, this edition of the PharmaCare Newsletter.

Please note that, until the new booklet comes into effect on July 28, the current booklet will also remain on the website.

To view or print the booklet, visit: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/publications.html

The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment.
Information on PharmaNet is not exhaustive and cannot be relied upon as complete.
The absence of a warning about a drug or drug combination is not an indication that the drug or drug combination is safe, appropriate or effective in any given patient.
Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

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REPORT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL TASK FORCE

In November 2007, a nine-member task force was charged with advising government on key areas of pharmaceutical policy within the health system.

On May 21, 2008, the Report of the Pharmaceutical Task Force was released by Health Minister George Abbott. A copy of the news release and report is available on the Ministry of Health website at www.health.gov.bc.ca. The report is also available on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/publications.html.

MESSAGE FROM HEALTH INSURANCE BC —UPDATES TO FAIR PHARMACARE FORMS

Health Insurance

We are in the process of updating and improving some of our forms as part of a three month pilot project. These updates will increase the legibility of information we receive from the public and ensure timely processing. The type of information collected and the function of the forms will remain the same.

The updated **Fair PharmaCare Plan Registration** and **Fair PharmaCare Application for Income Review** —the forms most relevant to your patients—are available online. You can link to this and other Health Insurance BC forms at www.hibc.gov.bc.ca. Once on that page, on the left-hand side, under **Resources** click on **Forms**.

Of course, your patients will find that the quickest and easiest way to register for Fair PharmaCare is online. Online registration is available 24 hours a day at https://pharmacare.moh.hnet.bc.ca/.

LOW COST ALTERNATIVE (LCA) / REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM (RDP) BOOKLET CHANGES

New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP

The following newly-approved benefits have been added to existing LCA/RDP categories as eligible benefits for Plans B, C, F, Fair PharmaCare, and, if applicable, Plan P and Plan G. (For the Plan G formulary, please visit the Special Authority Information page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme.)

DIN	DRUG NAME	RDP	LCA STATUS	SPECIAL AUTHORITY ONLY
2293226	NOVO-CITALOPRAM 40 mg tablet		P	
2293218	NOVO-CITALOPRAM 20 mg tablet		P	
2301288	PMS-ISMN SR 60 mg tablet	Y	P	
2273039	PMS-TEMAZEPAM 15 mg capsule		P	
2273047	PMS-TEMAZEPAM 30 mg capsule		P	
2294419	PMS-MINOCYCLINE 50 mg capsule		P	
2294427	PMS-MINOCYCLINE 100 mg capsule		P	
2294826	PMS-CLINDAMYCIN 150 mg capsule		P	
2294834	PMS-CLINDAMYCIN 300 mg capsule		P	
2304317	CO-VENLAFAXINE 37.5 mg capsule		P	
2304325	CO-VENLAFAXINE 75 mg capsule		P	

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New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP, continued

DIN	DRUG NAME	RDP	LCA STATUS	SPECIAL AUTHORITY ONLY
2304333	CO-VENLAFAXINE 150 mg capsule		P	
2281260	CO-FLUCONAZOLE 50 mg tablet		P*	Y
2281279	CO-FLUCONAZOLE 100 mg tablet		P*	Y
2294400	PMS-GLICLAZIDE 80 mg tablet		P*	Y
2305429	SANDOZ BRIMONIDINE 0.2 % ophthalmic solution		P	

F – Fully covered P – Partially covered P* – Drug is a partial benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

Benefits Palliative Care Drug Plan (Plan P)

The following products are now eligible regular benefits for PharmaCare Plan P (Special Authority is not needed for these drugs for Plan P patients).

For Plans B, C, F and Fair PharmaCare, these products are eligible under the Limited Coverage Program drug, by Special Authority only.

DIN	DRUG NAME	LCA STATUS (Plans B, C, F & Fair PharmaCare)	LCA Status (Plan P)
2298074	RAN-RABEPRAZOLE 10 mg tablet	F*	F
2298082	RAN-RABEPRAZOLE 20 mg tablet	F*	F
2296632	NOVO-RABEPRAZOLE EC 10 mg tablet	F*	F
2296640	NOVO-RABEPRAZOLE EC 20 mg tablet	F*	F
2281260	CO-FLUCONAZOLE 50 mg tablet	P*	P
2281279	CO-FLUCONAZOLE 100 mg tablet	P*	P

F – Fully covered F* – Drug is a full benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.
P – Partially covered P* – Drug is a partial benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

New LCA Categories

The following drugs (including both existing and new PharmaCare benefits) will be included as new LCA Categories on PharmaNet, effective **July 14, 2008**.

NEW CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
LEVONORGESTREL–ETHINYL ESTRADIOL TAB 0.10 / 0.02MG (21)	2298538	AVIANE 21	F	
	2236974	ALESSE 21	P	0.4814
LEVONORGESTREL–ETHINYL ESTRADIOL TAB 0.10 / 0.02MG (28)	2298546	AVIANE 28	F	
	2236975	ALESSE 28	P	0.3610
PIOGLITAZONE HCL TAB 15MG	2297906	SANDOZ PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2302942	APO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2301423	RATIO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2274914	NOVO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2298279	GEN-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2302861	CO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2303124	PMS-PIOGLITAZONE	P*	1.6312
	2242572	ACTOS	P*	1.6312

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New LCA Categories, continued

NEW CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
PIOGLITAZONE HCL TAB 30MG	2297914	SANDOZ PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2302950	APO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2301431	RATIO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2274922	NOVO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2298287	GEN-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2302888	CO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2303132	PMS-PIOGLITAZONE	P*	2.2851
	2242573	ACTOS	P*	2.2851
PIOGLITAZONE HCL TAB 45MG	2297922	SANDOZ PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2302977	APO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2301458	RATIO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2274930	NOVO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2298295	GEN-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2302896	CO-PIOGLITAZONE	F*	
	2303140	PMS-PIOGLITAZONE	P*	3.4359
	2242574	ACTOS	P*	3.4359
ATENOLOL TAB 25MG	2303647	GEN-ATENOLOL	F	
	2266660	NOVO-ATENOLOL	F	
	2246581	PMS-ATENOLOL	F	
RABEPRAZOLE SODIUM TAB 10MG	2298074	RAN-RABEPRAZOLE	F*	
	2296632	NOVO-RABEPRAZOLE EC	F*	
	2243796	PARIET	P*	.4723
RABEPRAZOLE SODIUM TAB 20MG	2298082	RAN-RABEPRAZOLE	F*	
	2296640	NOVO-RABEPRAZOLE EC	F*	
	2243797	PARIET	P*	.9445

F – Fully covered

P – Partially covered

F* – Drug is a full benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

P* – Drug is a partial benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

NON-BENEFITS

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under PharmaCare.

DIN	DRUG NAME
2296063	APO-BICALUTAMIDE 50MG tablet
2302403	GEN-BICALUTAMIDE 50MG tablet